

**Thiſ Booke is named
the beaulte of women,
translated out of frenche in
to Engliſhe.**





The sonne of the mayde whom neuer none resembled
In beaulte nor bonnte syth the worlde beganne
For both in her were perfectly assembled
Named is she Marye daughter to saynt Anne
Guyde myne hande so that the gentylman
That me desyred to reduce this boke
From Frenche to Englyshe, be content, and than
I take lytle cure what other there on loke.

In Frenche (la beaulte des fēmes) is it named
The beaulte of women, in our Englyshe language
Wherof to treate, I ought well to be blamed
Consydered that I had neuer the blage
Womens beaulte in body nor bylage
For to regarde, and there vpon good reason
Syth I am made (as an vnpleasaunt page)
I caste away from presence at eche season.

But what therof shall I leue of to worpte
Syth no man hauynge more practyse then I
Wyll take the payne to set blacke on the whyte
And it a thyng so dygne of memozye
Nay truste me playne I shall my selfe applie
Of the Frenche boke to folowe the sentence
Beaulte (as ryght requyret) to glozyfe
What euer folowe of the consequence.

What caused the worthy Troiens of Troie
To caste his loue vpon Creseyde the shene
Why set Parys on fayre Helayne his ioye
What caused Achylles to loue Polepene

Why loued Tristram la belle Isonde the quene
Of Arthur of Bretayne the fayre Flozence?
All came of theyr beaulte, and theyr pleasaunt eyen
What haue I to do as of the consequence.

The consequence is not percell of my charge
A womans beaulte the effect is of my matter
As ye may se more playnly here at large
Of other thynges I haue no charge to smatter
Of this and that I purpose not to chatter
But of theyr beaulte, maynteyne, and maner
No more of your parables I pray you to patter
For nowe I begyn, who so hath lust to here.

A womans beaulte by thre poyntes doth bary
That semblable shulde be in her by nature
And whan one of the thre is founde contrary
Perfaytely fayre she is not, be ye sure.

A womans beaulte thus ye may espy
Yf ye in her may thre thynges longe aduysle
Longe nose, longe armes, and longe the body
Proportioned well after the goodly wyse.

A womans beaulte fether for to fynde
Ye ought to take regarde vnto the hed
If it be shorte, with shorte the heles behynde
And shorte the lornes, none can be better sped.

A womans beaulte who hath delyte
Fether to knowe, may it espye

If she haue all these thre thynges whyte
The flesshe, the teeth, and whyte of the eye.

Womans beaulte requyrezth ouer this
That she ynoughe of heare haue vpon these
That is the same that vpon her browes is
At the ende of her wombe, and vpon her eye brees.

Beaulte in woman hath no mansyon
But yf she haue whyte the flesshe, and blacke plumage
Coulour is there none vnto the clere browne
Thus it is sayde in the cōmon vsage.

Womans beaulte yf thou wylt vnderstande
Further than this, than must thou take hede
For yf she haue softe the knees, the heare and hande
Holde the content, thou arte well sped in dede.

Beaulte requyrezth also that woman bayze
Thre thynges flesshely and thycke vnder theyr smockes
Vnto the entent that they be called fayze
The brestes, and the bely, with the buttockes.

Beaulte is in a woman yf that she
Haue the body, the armes and fynghers small
And yf she fayle but one of these thre
So moche she lacketh of beaulte than at all.

Womans beaulte yet furthermoze demaundes
Ioyntyfe and straycte to haue these thre poyntes
That is, the eares, and fynghers of the handes

Alowe vnder the gobone, the other ioynte is.

Beaulte of woman taketh no cure ne charge
Thus say all suche as do the matter knowe
Pryncypally yf that she haue to large
The ioynte that standeth in darkenes do bene a lowe.

Beaulte in woman sheweth her selfe at all
Passyngly well, nothyng can be moze mete
If she haue the mouthe lytle, propre, and small
Lytle the eares, lytle and small the fete.

Womans beaulte doth not let her pleasure
To haue lyke a cowe the eares vpon her hede
Nor for to haue the mouth great of measure
Nor yet the fete, which by the way her lede.

Beaulte ouer all beaultes hath she
That these thre poyntes can mayntayne and baye
That here vnder shall noted be
She that them hath is perfyctely fayre.

Beaulte as for the fyrste requyre wolde
That the woman (howe euer stande the case)
Symple maner and countenaunce shulde holde
For otherwyle she wyll auoyde the place.

Womans beaulte eche persone repproueth
If so be that she bere the countenaunce
More eleuate and hyghe than it behoueth
Her beaulte tourneth but all to displeasaunce.

Beaulte requyrezth as for the seconde parte
That woman bere euer naturallie
Symple regarde and not ouerboharre
With pleasaunt and symple caslynge of the eye.

Beaulte is lost in woman oultrely
If she haue this of very condycyon
As to regarde a loke dyspyteously
For that is the maner of the lyon.

Womans beaulte requyrezth thyrldly
That stedfastly and without oultrage
She kepe as discrete continually
Symple answere euer in her language.

Womans beaulte that shulde be magnifyed
Lyeth compassed in these thre poyntes onely
What beaulte someuer is to her applyed
The woman ought to lede her lyfe simply.

Beaulte of lierte doth that woman folowe
That hath the browes and raynes of the backe
And there with all the fete lyght and holowe
If these thre be holowe there is no lacke.

Beaulte in woman is nothyng pleasaunt
That glometh with her eye with frowarde chere
And is of her raynes so heuy or peasaunt
And of her fete, as yf a beest it were.

Womans beaulte shall ye fynde doubtelesse

In thre hyghe poyntes that on her body gent
Ought for to be, and them I shall expresse
Hereafter, yf my remembraunce aillent.

Beaulte sayth (the fyrste poynte to knowe)
The woman shulde haue the forhed hyghe and fayre
For when she hath the forhed ouer lowe
Euill her belemeth a frontelet to bayre.

Womans beaulte requyrezeth secondely
Of beaulte aryght who that enquire wolde
That woman ought to haue the hed hyghe
The better therwith her hat she doeth vpholde.

Beaulte in woman playnly doth habounde
If she be fayle as for the thyrde parte
To haue the brestes hyghe, fayre and rounde
With fyne gorgyas well and fayre couerte.

Womans beaulte as in preemynence
Requyrezeth these thre poyntes pryncypall
For to be founde vpon her corpulence
And well on hyghe they ought for to be all.

Womans beaulte expressely for to shewe
As to the regarde of her countenaunce
Requyrezeth ouer this to haue thre poyntes lobbe
Whiche all women ought to haue in remembraunce.

Womans beaulte that purchase well prayse
Wyll that the woman set her busy cure

To mayntayne in her selfe a lowe laughynge
To laughe ouer hyghe belemeth no creature.

Beaulte yet cōmaundeth afterwarde
Unto all women this poynte secondely
To haue alwayes a lowely regarde
Not ouer moche, but moderatly.

That woman hath the bent of beaultes bowe
That can regarde in helth and in disease
Whan she shall nese to make the sowne but lowe
To do other wyse it may no persone please.

Womans beaulte wyll in conclusyon
Of these lowe poyntes, without desloyaulte
That women bere euer a lowly condycyon
For otherwyse she leaseth her beaulte.

Beaulte demaundeth these poyntes to hane sene
In women that be fayre and fayte at all
To haue traytis the browes, and traytis even
And lytle the handes, traytis, slendze, and small.

Beaulte hath she that hath the chynne dympled
The ioyntes of the handes shulde be in lyke maner
The chekes also be they bare or wympled
Especially when she smyleth with her chere.

Beaulte requyrezeth large to haue these thre
The fyrste is the space goynge from eye to eye
Betwyxte the shouldez shulde the secnde be

The thynde betwixt the raynes ye shall espye.

Perfayte beaulte ye may well determyne
In woman, so that these thre in her repayre
The nayles and the lyppes complectyon sanguyne
And roundy the chekes well bermaylled and fayre.

Womans beaulte thou doest well expose
Or mayst expose without tarynge
If thou retayne and in thy mynde close
All that is set before in this wytynge.

Of beaulte yf there be any woman
More purely sped than is comprysed in this
Was neuer woman syth the worlde began
So perfyte sped of beaulte as she is.

I haue expressed theyr preemynence
As well of theyr bodyes as of theyr mayntien
But speke what we wyll aparte or in scylence
Beaulte sans bonte ne bault rien

Beaulties there be in women infynyte
But of bonties there is but lytle speche
Beaulte is them gyuen as thyng requisyte
Who wyll haue bonte let hym go and seche
This notwithstandinge I coulde a man teche
To fynde ryght good of the gendre femynyne
And fayre also, but what euer we preche
Beaulte sans bonte ne bault rien.

Beaulte ennobleth the persone doubtlesse
And playnly she is of the moze balure
But with beaulte is requisyte goodnesse
To speke aryght who so wyll set his cure
Bonte wyll not be vnder couerture
Where euer she be, her purete is so fyne
Wherefore I set agayne in this scripture
Beaulte sans bonte ne vult rien.

Mayde, wyfe, or wydowe, dame, or damoyzell
That haue the ray of beaulte compysed in your face
Adioynete therto bonte, than shall ye do ryght well
For beaulte with bonte assembled in a place
Gyue demonstraunce of an especyall grace
Gyuen to the persone, and as I take the cause
At syse smyleth bonte, where beaulte laugheth at eace
As dayly it is sene, and there a fynall clause.

E F I N I S.

Imprynted by me Robert Wyer/dWel-
lynge in saynt Martyns paryshe/
at the sygne of saynt Iohn Euā
gelyst besyde Charynge crosse.



ROBERT & WYER

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This book is named the
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